**Student Success Initiative**- Our school rarely has a student that does not pass the test. We identify the at risk student early and give them extra preparation. Occasionally we have a move in that comes to the school late and we do not have the proper time to prepare them. We have only had one student fail and need to be placed. We are able to accomplish this mainly because of our small size. I can see where a larger school districts would have trouble accomplishing this.

Yes, the late comers are the one we also focus on with extra help to make sure they are wup with the other students. this school year, we got more homeless students than we ever had in the years before. We also have to work with those students becasue of their situations.

Jack, it must be nice to work in a school where the students are so successful!! I've never worked in a school that went above "recognized" - and that took a tremendous amount of work!! Do the teachers at your school feel a lot of pressure to keep the scores up?

Yes, they are always under pressure. To think about it. the entire school is under stress even the cafeteria workers.

**Data Use-** In my school, there is very little training in the effective use of data. The data is evaluated in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade departmental meeting in math and reading. Generally there is little fluctuation in the data from year to year, so not a great deal of data evaluation is required.   
I think this approach is appropriate for my school but not necessarily appropriate for other schools. All teachers should not be required to analyze the data. I would make it mandatory for the tested areas to evaluate the data in order to take necessary action to make improvement when required. When numbers are low, it would be vital that teachers be able to evaluate the data and make necessary adjustments to student preparation. When results are consistently high, the data is just used to confirm the success of the district.

Jack- your school is a special case, not all schools have such a consistently high rating. I think it is important for all teachers, not just those teaching TAKS grades, to analyze the data. I used to hate having to do it at my school, but in the past few years, I have seen the benefit of having all teachers become familiar with the data. Vertical alignment meeting to discuss the disaggregated data, areas of strength and weakness, and how to address the areas of weakness are very important in my school. We have an exemplary rating this year (in a low SES school) because we analyze the data. We expect all teachers from Pre-K through 4th (we don't have 5th) to participate in data analysis and address weak areas with their specific grade level students.

Jessica, that's how our four "exemplary" schools handle data. And, they are all Title 1 schools. The teachers and staff, and students are awesome! They have a plan, and from the students to the principals, their expectation is to be "exemplary"! These schools live by the data. It's been wonderful for the students to realize, they can do it! One of these schools is 65% free and reduced... the highest in our district. But, by accessing the data and having high expectations, they make it happen. We're really proud of them!  
  
MJ McDaniel

Jack good for you and your school and I really don’t mean this sarcastically.

At my school and in many schools in my district the majority of our students are at risk. I used to be reluctant in giving this information , but over the years I have gotten to realize that ‘it is what it is’-they come to us that way an there is nothing we can do about that. The big question is- what can we do to make them less at risk when they leave us? We do many things:

* Small class size, maximum 1/20 teacher student ratio
* Extra help in certain content areas- math, ELA, science etc.
* Use of technology – animated software, interactive DVD.
* Extra counseling for those in need
* Breakfast and lunch daily
* Transportation to and from school   
  Tutorial available before and after school  
  Drop out prevention   
  One off the greatest move that we have made recently as a campus is to open what is called a Virtual School Academy –This serves previously drop out, pregnant mothers or those that have recently given birth, students behind on grade level and need to be caught up. The goal is to provide instruction and assessment to these students mainly through technology. Students have the privilege to attend classes from 7am to 7pm Mondays through Fridays depending on what fits their need.